

The Mountain Top

Messenger

Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 53, ISSUE #2

FEBRUARY 2015

February; as I thought about it.....February is over the hump in winter (sorry I visualize the hump day camel here), we are in the downhill slide to spring, and while this winter hasn't been as challenging as the last one I am ready to start thinking about warmer weather. One of the things that goes along with warmer weather and thinking spring is Lent, followed by Easter, this year Easter is the first Sunday in April and Lent will begin on February 18th with Ash Wednesday. On each Wednesday night we will focus on one of Jesus' parables that connects to the Lenten themes. As an example, the Pharisee and the Tax Collector will be the parable for Ash Wednesday. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays for the Lenten services and don't forget the soup and sandwich dinner before each service.

I finished up my week of classes at the seminary in January and I am working on the concluding assignments during the last weeks in January and the first two weeks in February. Thank you to all of those who assisted, or will be assisting me with the congregational evaluations. It was a truly remarkable time at seminary, as it always is, but this visit is one that I dare say will never be forgotten. As I look at the calendar and in looking at my class schedule everything is on track for a December ordination, as long as my brain holds out and the Good Lord is willing; please keep me in your prayers.

As I believe you are all aware the new organ is in and sounding beautiful. During my first service with the new organ I was amazed with the fullness of sound particularly in the front of the church. Now with that being said, with all the new fresh sound in the front, it was a little more difficult to hear all of you singing, so I am going to ask you all to sing out a little louder to the glory of God, let's send Him some beautiful music. And on that note I have been talking about getting together a group of singers, for lack of a better term let's call it; a choir. Now this choir, while they would be welcome to sing special songs at special occasions, I would see their main function being that of sitting in the choir loft on Sunday and singing all of the days music, helping to lead, support, and add strength to voices of the congregation. If anyone would be interested in this please let myself or Lynn know. To help out this cause, I am going to request for the next couple of months that we try and sing music that everyone knows and is familiar with. If you have any questions, comments, or other ideas how we might bring forth a joyful noise unto the Lord, please let me know.

Thank you for all of your prayers, support, and well wishes.

The Lord bless you and keep, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Vicar Rick



1111 - 11th Ave. W Ashland, WI 54806
Church Office Phone # - 715-682-6075
Office hours M/T/W/Th 8:00am-12:00pm
Website: www.zionashland.org
E-mail - zionashland@hotmail.com

Vicar Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/T/W/Th 8-5:00pm



(Please call ahead if you need to speak with Vicar Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's, at a conference, etc.)

Church President: Nick Jarvela 715-682-0385

Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185

LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

Do You Know ? **Chuck Chronis**

Chuck was born in Marshfield, WI and baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church on June 2, 1952. His family included his parents and one brother. They moved to the Milwaukee area in 1953. Chuck remembers back in 1960 going on vacation to the UP, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and Ashland County and he fell in love with the area. He wished his dad could have gotten a job in the area. He attended school in Hartford, went to UW-Oshkosh and earned a Liberal Arts Education degree in 1971. He enlisted for four years in the Navy. When he finished his military duty he earned an Associate Degree in book-



keeping from Milwaukee College now Concordia Mequon, graduating Summa Cum Laude. In 1989 his parents retired and Chuck joined them to their move to Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2008 they both died 75 days apart and Chuck started his search for a new home. His heart still went out for the Midwest and he subscribed to "Midwest Living Magazine". He was looking at the magazine one day and came across a 1"x2" ad for the Chamber of Commerce in Ashland, WI. He called them and got the answers to questions from them and Pastor Steckling. His main priority of interest was there had to be a Lutheran LCMS church. He arrived in Ashland, September, 2008.

Chuck is retired now - that is as much as a retired person actually is retired - and enjoys bike riding, walking, hiking in the woods and has even tried some fishing. Not ice fishing yet, that's too cold. He even helped process some venison this past season. Chuck is very involved at Zion. He attends worship regularly, Bible Study, just finished his term as Church President, is an Elder, and has added a new title as Sexton. (definition of sexton: *A church officer or employee in charge of the maintenance of church property*). The Church is very vital and important to him and he says Zion is a friendly and wonderful church. One of his philosophies is: "In order to lead you need to be willing to serve. Everything is done for the glory of the Lord. No matter how insignificant something may seem it is important in His eyes."

Soup and Sandwich Suppers
Wednesdays 5:00-6:15pm
Feb. 18th through Mar. 25th

Please join us for some delicious soup, sandwiches, dessert and fellowship on Wednesdays during Lent. Worship services will start at 6:30pm.



Serving Assignments:

Feb. 18th Altar Guild

Mar. 4th Education/Sunday School

Mar. 18th Trustees

Feb. 25th Elders & Evangelism

Mar. 11th LFOJ

Mar. 25th Stewardship/Youth Group

Our Prayer Concerns
FEBRUARY

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church
 Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center
 Jordan Kroll Mission in China

Thanksgiving

To all of you who have worked faithfully and joyfully to serve our Lord by serving others and often go unnoticed by all but our Heavenly Father.

Illnesses

Dale Houle, Riley Bretting, Matt Raspotnik, Bob Wolfgram, Larry Korbein, Chuck Ladd, Holly Nemec, Katie Stipetich, Lilly Harrelson, Reider Williams, Micayla Key, Isaiah Majetich, Jerry Nelson, Marge Douglas, Larry Ohlerking, Diane Hyvonen, Dawn Houle, Bob Heagy, Kevin Heagy

Nursing Home &

Assisted Living Resident

Corrine Tolliver Sharon Johnson
 Otto & Dorothy Rusch

Shut-in's Gordon & Marianne Vyskocil

Walt Schutte Les & Marvelyn Pufall

Military

Aaron Esala
 Tyler Heglund



NEED A PRAYER?

Zion Lutheran Church has two active prayer chains—a daytime and an evening chain. If you would like to have the chain activated to pray for a specific need, please call Marge Douglas at 682-2160. If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message, but then call the church office at 682-6075 and give the request to the church secretary and the chain will be activated. The Prayer Chain members are asked to keep all prayer requests confidential and not discuss them with others, but caller discretion is advised.





SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

January is starting anew with The Story. The classes covered "The Beginning of the End", where Isaiah is telling the people God's message, to change and ask for God's forgiveness. Next "The Kingdom's Fall" God's message to Jeremiah.

The Sunday School students were given a handout for "Youth & Teen Camps and Adventures at Camp Luther—the 2015 Camping Schedule" This includes family retreats, group retreats and Sunday worship services. The Camp Luther theme for 2015 is [KNOWN-"He Know Me"] Zion received our letter from "Woody", Gary Vought, Director of Outdoor Ministry, regarding Summer Campers and stressed that awards are available for children who have never been to camp before.

And to repeat the dates of Aug. 10-13th, that is when Zion's summer VBS with Camp Luther counselors at Zion for grades 1-6 will take place.

We are presently working on "Following In His Footsteps" and "Hands of Prayer" bulletin boards.

On Sunday, February 22nd, an organ concert with a potluck to follow is planned. There will not be Sunday School classes that morning but we hope that the students will attend the concert.

The Board of Education and Sunday School will be serving Soup & Sandwich on March 4th during Lent. The donations will be used for VBS and other events.

God's Blessings,
Katie Colgrove, Sunday School Superintendent

Lent: a 40- Day Invitation

Leave behind your brokenness

Enter the simple-plain wilderness

Be marked with palm-ashes

Sing hymns in soft tones of longing

Lean hungry hearts into prayer

Search out the memory of baptism

Hear the ancient cry "*Repent,*

Prepare the way of the Lord."

Speak the language of confession

Let the shadow of the cross fall on you

Receive the healing of forgiveness

Take His bread broken for you

Drink His wine poured out for you

Let His love overtake your love

That you may become...

God's Holy Invitation to Others.

-A. Ellis

The Memorial Committee would like to keep you informed that Zion is now enjoying the new sounds of our digital Allen Organ. We are feeling so Blessed with the generosity of this Congregation. To date we have collected over \$37,000. We are just short \$1,000 to meet our goal. We ask that you continue to support the Organ fund with your Memorials and gifts in honor of someone that is special to you. We Thank the Lord for all of these Blessings given to Zion in the name of our Lord and Savior. Thank You. Sincerely, the Memorial Committee

Reider Williams Event

Sunday, February 15, 2015 10:15am

After the service on that Sunday we will be having a “goodwill offering” to help defray expenses that have occurred during Reider’s illness. A continental breakfast table with muffins, fruit, juice and coffee will be served. Thrivent Financial will be matching 50¢ to the dollar, up to \$1,000. So if we receive \$2,000 in donations we will have a total of \$3,000. Checks should be written out to Karl Williams.

On Thanksgiving Reider was admitted to the hospital and spent the next five days fighting pneumonia. It had taken over the bottom lobe of his right lung. Saturday, Jan 5 Reider’s cough and fever had returned and he went to the clinic. The chest x ray showed a strange spot in the bottom lobe and after consultation with the pediatric specialist in Duluth, we were sent to Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. At this point, we were looking at worst case scenario - an abscess that might need to be drained with a chest tube.



After arrival, they did an ultrasound and CT to get a better picture of what was going on. Good news was that it wasn't an abscess. Bad news, it looks like he has congenital lung lesions. In Reider's case, they get irritated and since that portion of the lung doesn't function properly, fluid builds up and he ends up sick. Treatment for the lesions is surgical removal of the damaged tissue. We won't know how much will need to go until they can get in and see, but so far it looks like it is isolated to that area. He will probably end up having the lobe removed. He currently has RSV and the tissue is very inflamed. Lungs are difficult to operate on. They are not very rigid, there are many major blood vessels that go between the lungs and heart, and plugging the bronchus isn't easy. There is a chance that air will leak and he will need that chest tube. But with all that scary stuff being said, Children's Hospital is the best in the nation for such cases. All of the people that are working with us are pediatric specialists. This is what they do. We are in extremely capable hands.

So to give the best chance for a flawless operation, they want the swelling and infection to go down. Reider got a PICC line (more permanent IV) so he could go home and continue to get antibiotics. A home nurse will come to help with regular maintenance of the line and answer questions.

Surgery is set for Jan 26th as long as he stays healthy. Reider will be getting regular antibiotic infusions to improve the condition of his lung. The hospital staff has been amazing and extremely helpful finding resources to help us including the Ronald McDonald house. We are also very grateful for all of the thought and prayers. It is at times almost overwhelming knowing so many people are pulling for us during this unexpected turn of events. But like the pulmonologist told us, after the surgery Reider should be a totally normal kid with only a small scar.

Thank you for all your prayers and concerns,
Karl & Kari Williams



LFOJ HAPPENINGS

Thank You

We appreciate all of the support in attendance to the 2014 Christmas program. Thank you to Vicar Williams, LFOJ Staff and board for help in putting together a wonderful evening.

We would also like to thank all of the families for thinking of the center and staff with their thoughtful gifts during the holidays.

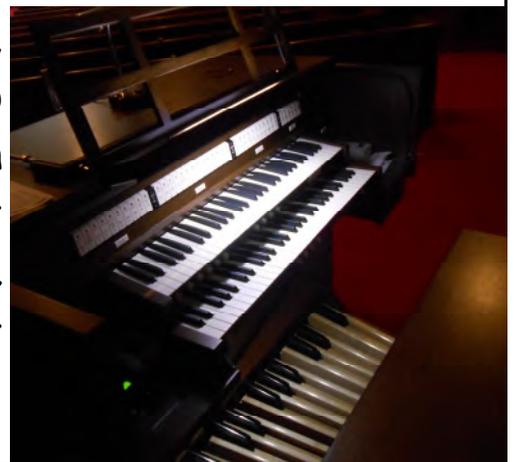
Did you receive Christmas cards and don't want to throw them away? Pass them along to us to use for craft projects! Just cut off the

message portion of the card (leaving the front picture) and leave them in the LFOJ mailbox or church office. Thanks!

Volunteers: Anyone that would like to come and read to the children, help with a craft, help with a snack or any other possibility, needs to go through a 2-hour volunteer orientation. We are looking at doing one in February. You can contact us through the church office number at 682-6075.

THIS IS IT!

The new organ is installed and being played. Christopher D. Wallace, President of Allen Organs of the Twin Cities installed the organ on January 12th and 13th and the organ was dedicated on Sunday, January 18th. It is a beautiful instrument and the main comment is you now can hear the organ no matter where you sit in the pews. Christopher D. Wallace, President of Allen Organ Company of the Twin Cities will be returning on Sunday, January 22nd to play for the 9:00 Worship Service. There will be a quick break and then Chris will perform a concert. You won't want to miss it. Following the concert there will be a potluck dinner for fellowship and a great time. We hope to see you there!



Stewardship Thoughts

February Stewardship Newsletter Article from LCMS Synod - St. Louis

“Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful” (Luke 6:36). The word for mercy that Jesus uses here has a more concrete meaning than what we typically associate with mercy. It means more than just being kind. It means to be concerned about your neighbor’s state and well-being. Thus, Jesus taught that we are to care, to be concerned about our neighbor’s state and well-being even as our Father in heaven cares for and is concerned about our state and well-being.

How has our Father in heaven cared for our state? How has He shown His concern for our well-being? How has He showered this mercy upon us?

He gave of Himself. He sent His only-begotten Son in human flesh, to become one of us—a man—and to suffer all that we suffer and to endure what we endure—a fallen world full of sinful people, temptation, the attacks of the devil, and death. He took upon Himself what rightfully belongs to us—sin and death—in order that He could give to us what rightfully belongs to Him—righteousness, purity, eternal life, and victory over the temptation of Satan and this fallen world. That is how He cared for our state. That is how He was concerned for our well-being. He entered into our state for the sake of our well-being, died in our place, rose for our justification, redeemed us to make all things new. He entered our state so that by water and His Word we would be granted entrance into His state as children of our Father in heaven. In other words, He had empathy toward us, which resulted in true sympathy.

Jesus, therefore, calls the church to empathy and sympathy for her neighbors. “Be merciful even as your Father in heaven is merciful.” He asks the church to give of herself, to enter into her neighbors’ state for their well-being. And the church gives of herself the only thing in her that is worth giving. As the Body of Christ, she gives Christ to her neighbors. She gives out the same mercy that she has received. She gives the mercy that the heavenly Father poured out upon her through the sending of His Son. And she does it through the preaching of the forgiveness of sins in Word and Deed, in Word and Sacrament. For this is how the church lives—in the forgiveness of sins received in the means of grace—and, therefore, this is what the church does. What else can she do?

And since this is how the church lives and what the church does, this is likewise how Christians live and what Christians do. That is why giving to the church is so important. It ensures that the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins in Word and Deed continues. It ensures that our neighbors’ state and well-being is cared for and attended to. It ensures that our neighbors have access to our heavenly Father’s mercy just as we have received it here in time for all eternity.

Therefore, I say, let us be merciful even as our Father in heaven is merciful.

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes: January 2015

The January 19th, 2015, Church Council meeting was called to order by President, Nick Jarvela. Vicar Rick opened with devotion and prayer: Luke 5- The Calling of the Disciples. Vicar Rick noted Jesus wanted disciples (fishermen) who understood patience and the importance of performing mundane daily tasks. Men who would mend the nets with joyful hearts.

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary), Lynn Ladd (Education), Lisa Guski & Carol Key (Co-Treasurers), Lori Landry (Evangelism), Diane Cashman (Stewardship), Daryl Warren (Elders), Cheri Tamke (LFOJ), Alice Ellis (Secretary), Rick Williams (Vicar).

Minutes: Motion by Tamke, second by Ladd to approve the minutes of December 17, 2014. Motion carried.

Vicar's Report: Advent/Christmas services went well. One baptism. Add Les and Marvelyn Pufall to visitation list. Vicar just returned from a week of study in St. Louis. Post-class sermon assignments due February 13th. Vicar is gone next Monday and Tuesday. Lenten Services begin February 18th, Ash Wednesday. Parables of Jesus will be Lenten theme.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Warren, second by Landry to approve the treasurer's report noting Capital Building and Organ projects listed separated. Motion carried.

Agenda: Motion by Landry, second by Ladd to approve the agenda with the addition of E: 2016 LCMS National Convention Nominations. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Elders: Warren reported that the elders are including the study of *Luther's Large Catechism* in their meeting time.

Trustees: Jarvela reported heavy duty shelves for organ speakers were built by Pat Colgrove and installed by trustees. Chris Wallace installed the new organ. The old organ is gone with the plan to sell it.

Financial Secretary: Koosmann said the 2014 financial statements were sent out.

Evangelism: Landry said Evangelism will review their mission at their meeting and consider the emphasis for community outreach.

Stewardship: Added Paula Pruss to the committee. Will review mission at their meeting.

Motion to accept board reports by Key and second by Landry. Motion carried.

Official Acts:

Baptism: Brooklynn Jean Harpster: 12-28-2014.

New Business:

Lenten Soup and Sandwich assignments: Feb. 18th (Ash Wed) Altar Guild, Feb. 25 Evangelism/Elders, March 4 Education and Sunday School, March 11 LFOJ, March 18th Trustees, March 25 Stewardship/Youth.

Position Hire: Chuck Chronis was hired for custodial needs of the church. His title will be: Sexton Chuck Chronis. (definition of *sexton*: *A church officer or employee in charge of the maintenance of church property*). Our annual budget for this position is \$2100 with the intention to pay \$8.75/hourly. Motion by Koosmann, second by Key to hire Chuck. Motion carried.

Energy Rebate: Jarvela reported a rebate for replacement energy boiler was submitted and \$4,770.70 rebate was received. It will also be possible to submit a rebate application when circulating pumps are replaced.

Freewill Offering: Kerry and Karl Williams' son, Reider, will have major surgery next week for a congenital right lung problem at Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. Sunday February 15th after church, Zion will serve refreshments and accept donations to contribute to Williams' medical expenses. It is hoped that Thrivent will match 50 cents on the dollar. A letter will be sent to sister Churches to request their participation through donations and prayer.

LCMS 2016 National Convention: Jarvela holds a letter listing nominations.

Adjournment: Motion by Key and second by Cashman to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Next Church Council Meeting is February 16, 2015 @ 5:30 pm. Respectfully submitted: Alice J. Ellis

CAMP LUTHER SUMMER REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

An exciting summer is planned for ALL AGES at Camp Luther. Youth in grades 3-9 have many options for camp that will allow you to pick just the right "fit" for each child. **"Pathfinder"** is an exciting week camp for youth in grades 3-6. **"Trailblazer"** is a special week camp for youth grades 5-9. Both Trailblazer and Pathfinder allow campers a choice to stay in one of five outpost villages or in the dormitory-style Retreat Center. Activities within camper groups provide opportunities for friendships and faith to grow.

WHAT IS "EVERY KID TO CAMP?"

"Every Kid to Camp" is a ministry that sends kids to a week of summer camp at Camp Luther in Three Lakes, WI, at no expense to their parents. Kids in grades 3-8, who have never attended a summer camp at Camp Luther, qualify to attend. The ministry goal is that every child in our district, and beyond, attends a week of summer camp before they reach the ninth grade. Please consider giving so more children have the opportunity to experience Christ through Camp Luther. You can help send kids to summer camp through your gifts. Check out "Every Kid to Camp" under the "Get Involved" tab at www.campluther.com.

Not quite ready for a whole week of camp??? **"Discovery Camp"** is an excellent introductory camp for your 3rd-5th grader. It is all the fun of youth camp packed into four days instead of six! Campers also get to experience housing in one of our awesome villages.

We are now accepting registrations at www.campluther.com. Check out our website to register or to see our entire list of summer camps.

Send your children to Camp Luther and watch them grow!

Calling all 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders...

CAMP LUTHER "EXPLORER CAMP" IS FOR YOU!

Explorer Camp is designed to be a starting point for campers who have completed grades 1, 2 or 3 to come to Camp Luther on their own. This weekend program includes activities like: parachute games, canoeing, swimming, arts and crafts, Christian Growth, campfire devotions, and more. Our program even includes a bedtime story and snack! Check out www.campluther.com for more information on this and other summer programs.

CAMP LUTHER GIFT CERTIFICATES CAN HELP WITH SUMMER CAMP

Interested in helping a child you know get to Camp Luther this summer? How about a gift certificate? You can order certificates in any amount. These can be used for summer camp or at our camp store. Call the Camp Luther office at 1-877-264-CAMP and order yours today!

CAMP LUTHER MARKETING SUMMIT

May 2, 2015

If you have experience or expertise in marketing we need you! Join us May 2 at Camp Luther for a one day session of planning and discussion that will bless camp and its future efforts in marketing and promoting the ministry. Melissa Bublitz, Assistant Professor of Marketing at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will be our facilitator. Call 715-546-3647 with your contact information or go to www.campluther.com/summit to register. Times are 9am to 4pm. Coffee, snacks, and lunch will be provided.

CAMP LUTHER WINTER COTTAGE RETREATS

Enjoy a cottage retreat at Camp Luther this winter. Our cottages have everything you will need for a relaxing getaway in the midst of God's beautiful creation. You can spend time outside cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, or tubing. When you are done, settle into a comfy chair next to your fireplace. Stay for a weekend or a week. Camp Luther is currently offering a special rate that is 30% off of our regular rate. Check out "Cottage Retreats" on our website.

STAY CONNECTED WITH CAMP LUTHER

Keep up to date on everything that is happening at Camp Luther. You can connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Find links at the bottom of our homepage at www.campluther.com. While you are there, sign up for our newsletters under the "Info. and Resources" tab.

FEBRUARY Servers for Worship Services

Our Servers for our Worship Service are very important. We ask that if you are unable to serve on your designated date, please find someone else to take your place. We really appreciate your help in this matter!! If you would like to be added or taken off one of our lists please contact the office. Greeters and Ushers should arrive 20 minutes before services start. Thank-you to all who serve.

ELDERS

Feb. 1 Doug Warren & Darryl Warren
Feb. 4 Chuck Chronis
Feb. 8 Randy Spangle & Don Pocernich
Feb. 11 John Pruss
Feb. 15 Don Pocernich & Randy Spangle
Feb. 18 Doug Warren
Feb. 22 Darryl Warren & Chuck Chronis
Feb. 25 John Pruss



Acolytes

Feb. 1 Tia Warren
Feb. 8 Taylor Vyskocil
Feb. 15 Kyle Sapper
Feb. 18 Ashlee Moreland & Abbi Moreland
Feb. 22 Heather Dickrell
Feb. 25 Justin Esala & Ella Bauer
Feb. 29 Jacob Graves

GREETERS

Feb. 1 Draeger Family
Feb. 8 Loren & Ellie Munson
Feb. 15 Rick & Sandy Nutt
Feb. 18 June Williams
Feb. 22 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
Feb. 25 Janet Houle

Ushers

Feb. 1 Jordan Thimm & Herb Ellis
Feb. 8 Cooper Tamke & Pat Colgrove
Feb. 15 Larry Hildebrandt & Jim Hebert
Feb. 18 Jim Johnson & Henry Truchon
Feb. 22 Warren Draeger & Eric Bochler
Feb. 25 Jerry Frisco



Colors of the Liturgical Season

Purple, like black, is a penitential color, in contrast to a festive one. It is appropriately used during Lent and, still in many parishes, during the season of Advent. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color

which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer.

Violet or purple was a very cherished and expensive color in the world Jesus lived. The dye used to make the color was painstakingly acquired by massaging the neck of a Mediterranean shell fish that secreted a special fluid. It was therefore afforded only by the rich and worn most exclusively by the royalty.

Jesus, the king of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented him, the Scriptures record they placed on him a "purple garment" in order to ridicule him and belittle the claim that he was a monarch.

Therefore, purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.



Becky Sapper

682-8867

Michelle Vyskocil

682-2498

Brooke Sapper

Sydney and Taylor Vyskocil

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism: 12-28-2014

Brooklynn Jean Harpster